

§ 97.144

§ 97.144 Additional marking or labeling.

Additional clarifying information that is not false or misleading may be used by the owner, in addition to the above markings or labeling.

ATTORNEYS AND AGENTS

§ 97.150 Right to be represented.

An applicant may actively advance an application or may be represented by an attorney or agent authorized in writing.

§ 97.151 Authorization.

Only attorneys or agents specified by the applicant shall be allowed to inspect papers or take action of any kind, on behalf of the applicant, in any pending application or proceedings.

§ 97.152 Revocation of authorization; withdrawal.

An authorization of an attorney or agent may be revoked by an applicant at any time, and an attorney or agent may withdraw, upon application to the Commissioner. When the authorization is so revoked, or the attorney or agent has so withdrawn, the Office shall inform the interested parties and shall thereafter communicate directly with the applicant, or with such other attorney or agent as the applicant may appoint. An assignment will not of itself operate as a revocation of authorization previously given, but the assignee of the entire interest may revoke previous authorizations and be represented by an attorney or agent of his or her own selection.

§ 97.153 Persons recognized.

Unless specifically authorized as provided in § 97.151, no person shall be permitted to file or advance applications before the Office on behalf of another person.

§ 97.154 Government employees.

Officers and employees of the United States who are disqualified by statute (18 U.S.C. 203 and 205) from practicing as attorneys or agents in proceedings or other matters before government departments or agencies, shall not be eligible to represent applicants, except officers and employees whose official du-

7 CFR Ch. I (1-1-05 Edition)

ties require the preparation and prosecution of applications for certificates of variety protection.

§ 97.155 Signatures.

Every document filed by an attorney or agent representing an applicant or party to a proceeding in the Office shall bear the signature of such attorney or agent, except documents which are required to be signed by the applicant or party.

§ 97.156 Addresses.

Attorneys and agents practicing before the Plant Variety Protection Office shall notify the Office in writing of any change of address. The Office shall address letters to any person at the last address received.

§ 97.157 Professional conduct.

Attorneys and agents appearing before the Office shall conform to the standards of ethical and professional conduct, generally applicable to attorneys appearing before the courts of the United States.

§ 97.158 Advertising.

(a) The use of advertising, circulars, letters, cards, and similar material to solicit plant variety protection business, directly or indirectly, is forbidden as unprofessional conduct, and any person engaging in such solicitation, or associated with or employed by others who so solicit, shall be refused recognition to practice before the Office or may be suspended, excluded, or disbarred from further practice before the Office.

(b) The use of simple professional letterheads, calling cards, or office signs, simple announcements necessitated by opening an office, change of association, or change of address, distributed to clients and friends and insertion of listings in common form (not display) in a classified telephone or city directory, and listings and professional cards with biographical data in standard professional directories, shall not be considered a violation of this section.

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 97.200

FEES AND CHARGES

§ 97.175 Fees and charges.

The following fees and charges apply to the services and actions specified in this section:

- (a) Filing the application and notifying the public of filing—\$432.00.
- (b) Search or examination—\$3,220.00.
- (c) Allowance and issuance of certificate and notifying public of issuance—\$432.00.
- (d) Revive an abandoned application—\$432.00.
- (e) Reproduction of records, drawings, certificates, exhibits, or pointed material (copy per page of material)—\$1.50.
- (f) Authentication (each page)—\$1.50.
- (g) Correcting or re-issuance of a certificate—\$432.00.
- (h) Recording assignments (per certificate/application)—\$38.00.
- (i) Copies of 8 x 10 photographs in color—\$38.00.
- (j) Additional fee for reconsideration—\$432.00.
- (k) Additional fee for late payment—\$38.00.
- (l) Additional fee for late replenishment of seed—\$38.00.
- (m) Appeal to Secretary (refundable if appeal overturns the Commissioner's decision)—\$4,118.00.
- (n) Granting of extensions for responding to a request—\$74.00.
- (o) Field inspections by a representative of the Plant Variety Protection Office, made at the request of the applicant, shall be reimbursable in full (including travel, per diem or subsistence, and salary) in accordance with Standardized Government Travel Regulation.
- (p) Any other service not covered in this section will be charged for at rates prescribed by the Commissioner, but in no event shall they exceed \$89.00 per employee-hour.

[68 FR 1360, Jan. 10, 2003]

[65 FR 47244, Aug. 2, 2000]

§ 97.176 Fees payable in advance.

Fees and charges shall be paid at the time of making application or at the time of submitting a request for any action by the Office for which a fee or

charge is payable and established in this part.

§ 97.177 Method of payment.

Checks or money orders shall be made payable to the Treasurer of the United States. Remittances from foreign countries must be payable and immediately negotiable in the United States for the full amount of the prescribed fee. Money sent by mail to the Office shall be sent at the sender's risk.

§ 97.178 Refunds.

Money paid by mistake or excess payments shall be refunded, but a mere change of plans after the payment of money, as when a party decides to withdraw an application or to withdraw an appeal, shall not entitle a party to a refund. However, the examination or search fee shall be refunded if an application is voluntarily abandoned pursuant to § 97.23(a) before a search or examination has begun. Amounts of \$1 or less shall not be refunded unless specifically demanded.

§ 97.179 Copies and certified copies.

(a) Upon request, copies of applications, certificates, or of any records, books, papers, drawings, or photographs in the custody of the Office and which are open to the public, will be furnished to persons entitled thereto, upon payment of the prescribed fee.

(b) Upon request, copies will be authenticated by imprint of the seal of the Office and certified by the official, authorized by the Commissioner upon payment of the prescribed fee.

AVAILABILITY OF OFFICE RECORDS

§ 97.190 When open records are available.

Copies of records, which are open to the public and in the custody of the Office, may be examined in the Office during regular business hours upon approval by the Commissioner.

PROTEST PROCEEDINGS

§ 97.200 Protests to the grant of a certificate.

Opposition on the part of any person to the granting of a certificate shall be